

No. R-367. House concurrent resolution designating March 9, 2016 as Turkish Cultural Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.280)

Offered by: Representatives Ram of Burlington, Berry of Manchester, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Stuart of Brattleboro, and Trieber of Rockingham

Whereas, in 2012, members of the large community of Turkish Americans in Vermont established the nonprofit Turkish Cultural Center Vermont (TCC), located in South Burlington, with a dual mission "to respond to social and cultural needs of Turkish Americans," and "to promote cross-cultural awareness that is based on mutual respect and understanding of Turkish Culture within Vermont," and

Whereas, often in partnership with other faith-based, civic, and social organizations, the TCC presents educational and cultural activities, including dinners, festivals, lectures, and trips to Turkey, and

Whereas, an important TCC role is offering interpreter and translation services, both Turkish-English and English-Turkish, that enable members of Vermont's Turkish community to interact more successfully on personal and business matters in an English-speaking state, and

Whereas, TCC matches families of Turkish descent with other Vermonters for home dinners as a way for all involved to engage in direct and personal intercultural exchanges, and

Whereas, one of the most significant events each year for the TCC is the Turkish Cultural Day at the State House, and

Whereas, Turkish Cultural Day is a culinary, musical, and theatrical celebration of the Turkish culture's best elements, and

Whereas, Vermonters who might not otherwise experience the beauty and joy of Turkish culture are offered this unique opportunity to participate in a delicious, exhilarating, and memorable event, and

Whereas, the fifth annual Turkish Cultural Day at the State House is being held on March 9, 2016, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 9, 2016 as Turkish Cultural Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Turkish Cultural Center Vermont.